

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 /075 W

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R 170825Z MAR 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5314

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0461

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE SAYS HUA KUO-FENG'S PUBLIC SECURITY  
APPARATUS HAS A ROLE IN CONTROLLING THE PLA

REF: PEKING 0443

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH USLO OFFICERS ON MARCH 12, COLONEL LOBANOV, SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE IN PEKING, COMMENTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLA'S APPARENT LACK OF DEEP INVOLVEMENT IN THE CURRENT POLITICAL CAMPAIGN THAT HE BELIEVED THE PLA WAS BEING VERY CAREFULLY CONTROLLED, AND HE SUGGESTED THAT "EVEN HUA KUSPAFENG'S ORGANIZATION" (THE PUBLIC SECURITY MINISTRY) PLAYED A ROLE IN THIS CONTROL. HE SAID THE CHINESE EMPLOYED TWO MECHANISMS IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL COMMAND CHANNELS TO CONTROL THE PLA.

2. WHEN ASKED TO EXPAND ON THIS, LOBANOV SAID THAT CHINESE MILITARY UNITS WERE, OF COURSE, CONTROLLED BY THEIR COMMANDING OFFICERS. HOWEVER, IN ANY MAJOR COMMAND DECISION, SUCH AS THE MOVEMENT OF UNITS FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER, THE CONCURRENCE OF THE POLITICAL "COMMISSARBZ HAD ALSO TO BE OBTAINED; IN FACT AN ORDER OF THIS SORT  
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HAD TO BE COUNTERSIGNED AX THE UNIT'S POLITICAL COMMISSAR

TO BE EFFECTIVE - THIS REQUIREMENT IN EFFECT GIVING THE  
PARTY VETO POWER OVER MAJOR MILITARY DECISIONS.

3. LOBANOV THEN ADDED THAT THERE WAS A THIRD CHECK OR  
CONTROL MECHANISM. HE SAID HE HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT  
AT EVERY ORGANIZATIONAL LEVEL OF THE PLA THERE WERE MEN  
WHO REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE PUBLIC SECURITY APPARATUS.  
HE DID NOT SAY WHETHER THESE WERE ACTUALLY PUBLIC SECURITY  
PERSONNEL PLACED INTO THE VARIOUS UNITS OR WERE MEMBERS OF  
THE PLA WHO HAD BEEN COOPTED BY THE PUBLIC SECURITY  
APPARATUS. HE CONFIRMED, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE THOSE IN  
THE SENIOR ECHELONS OF THE PLA WERE PROBABLY KNOWN TO  
THE MILITARY COMMANDERS, THE IDENTITIES OF THOSE AT LOWER  
LEVELS MIGHT WELL BE KEPT SECRET. LOBANOV STRESSED THAT  
THESE PUBLIC SECURITY-AFFILIATED MEN HAD NO COMMAND  
FUNCTION; THEY SERVED ONLY AS WATCHDOGS ON THE UNITS AND  
THE MEN IN THEM. WHEN PRESSED AS TO HOW HE KNEW OF THIS  
PUBLIC SECURITY ROLE, LOBANOV SAID THE INFORMATION CAME  
FROM MEMBERS OF THE PLA WHO HAD CROSSED THE BORDER AND  
SOUGHT REFUGE IN THE SOVIET UNION. THAYER

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